

Montanans for Rehberg  
PO Box 1597  
Helena, MT 59624

Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street W  
Washington, DC 20463

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To whom it may concern,

I write to you today in the matter of MUR 6674 a complaint filed by Preston Elliot, Campaign Manager for Montanans for Tester against Montanans for Rehberg. I urge you to dismiss this complaint and will explain the reasoning for dismissal later in this letter, as I would like to first express my disgust regarding this frivolous complaint and those who filed it. This complaint is nothing more than election chicanery. The professional political operatives of the Tester campaign filed this meritless complaint simply to try and generate a negative headline for their opposition. This blatant abuse of the FEC complaint system is politics at its worst.

In Section A of the complaint, the complainant makes numerous baseless and false claims to support their false conclusion that Montanans for Rehberg violated the campaign contribution limits. The fact of the matter is that Montanans for Rehberg complied with proper in-kind contribution limits and "fair market value" reimbursement rules.

Montanans for Rehberg contacted not one but two different Montana based bus rental agencies in order to ascertain the appropriate fair market value for use of a bus owned by Ted Beck. These quotes ranged from \$850 - \$900 per day including the use of bus, driver and fuel. Of this cost the driver accounts for approximately \$120-\$150 per day, the fuel approximately \$400 -- making the fair market value of the actual bus usage in the range of \$330 - \$350 per day. The Rehberg campaign chose to value the use of the bus at a higher level of \$365 per day.

During the period of the campaign finance report in question, the October Quarterly Report (July 1 - September 30) the campaign used Mr. Beck's bus for a total of 13 days (See schedule A Attached). At a rate of \$365 per day for 13 days = \$4,745. During this period of use the campaign purchased the fuel expenses. The campaign properly reported an in-kind contribution from Mr. Ted Beck in the amount of \$2,440 and Mrs. Vicki Beck in the amount of \$2,440 on 9/29/2012 for a total of \$4,880. This in-kind contribution covered both the cost of the bus usage as well as an additional \$135 in incidental expenses incurred by Mr. Beck during the course of the bus tours.

Furthermore, the campaign continued to use the bus on various days in October, days not covered by the report in question, for which the campaign reimbursed Mr. Beck approximately \$8,510 for the use of the bus and other associated expenses incurred by Mr. Beck during that time.

As you can see by examining the actual facts of the matter, not merely the false allegations made by the complainant, this matter should be dismissed. As is clearly demonstrated in this letter this complaint is nothing more than gutter politics with the complainant making false allegations for the the purpose of generating a negative headline during a critical time during a close election. I urge you to dismiss this matter.

Sincerely,



Jacob Eaton  
Chief of Staff  
Montanans for Rehberg

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